(e) the steps proposed to reduce this tilt of UGC?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The University Grants Commission (UGC) which is a statutory body established for the co-ordination and maintenance of standards of higher education, provides financial assistance to all eligible institutions on the basis of norms laid down by the Commission under each of its schemes. The release of funds by the Commission also depends on utilization of previous releases as well as feasibility of proposals forwarded by the institutions. No instance of discrimination against the religious minorities by UGC, has come to the notice of the Government.

The UGC is also implementing schemes for benefiting students from the minority communities. A Minority Cell has also been established in the UGC for overseeing schemes of the Commission, which are intended to benefit the minorities.

Attendance of minority children in schools

*450. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the attendance figures of children from the minority community in primary and upper primary classes in different States;

(b) whether it is at par with other communities; and

(c) if not, the efforts are being made to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) A national sample study to track student attendance at primary and upper primary levels in 20 major States and Delhi had been commissioned by the Government of India. Reports from 9 States received so far show that the attendance rate of the muslim children at primary and upper primary levels of schooling, are close to the overall attendance rates of all students. Related data is placed at the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), targeted interventions like enhancing school infrastructure, focus on girls education and community mobilization have been undertaken for the benefit of muslim children in the 6-14 year age group, especially in districts with substantial muslim population.

Statement

State-wise information with regard to Students attendance at Primary and Upper primary stage in sampled schools

State	Stage	Percentage of Students found present	
		Muslim Minority	Students from all communities
Andhra Pradesh	Primary (I-V)	69.88	73.88
	Upper Primary (VI-VII)	76.13	78.78
Himachal Pradesh	Primary (I-V)	90.82	95.1
	Upper Primary (VI-VIII)	93.97	93.59
Madhya Pradesh	Primary (I-V)	75.61	73.33
	Upper Primary (VI-VIII)	74.57	70.76
Maharashtra	Primary (I-V)	89	90.00
	Upper Primary (VI-VII)	89	90.00
Orissa	Primary (I-V)	65.16	67.77
	Upper Primary (VI-VII)	62.11	69.47
Rajasthan	Primary (I-V)	67.78	66.27
	Upper Primary (VI-VIII)	83.30	81.14
Uttar Pradesh	Primary (I-V)	56.11	59.56
	Upper Primary (VI-VIII)	65.90	61.83
Uttarakhand	Primary (I-V)	76	78
	Upper Primary (VI-VIII)	78	82
West Bengal	Primary (I-IV)	68.8	75.1
	Upper Primary (V-VIII)	66.4	69.7